

9th March 2014 Red Hill: one of three mauka O`ahu military fuel storage sites

By Henry Curtis

Writing for Civil Beat, Sophie Cocke covered the threat of water contamination from the Navy [Red Hill](http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2014/03/07/21411-officials-threat-to-oahus-water-supply-more-serious-than-thought/) [\[http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2014/03/07/21411-officials-threat-to-oahus-water-supply-more-serious-than-thought/\]](http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2014/03/07/21411-officials-threat-to-oahus-water-supply-more-serious-than-thought/) fuel storage facility.

Red Hill was one of three major military fuel storage sites located in the mauka lands of O`ahu.

One can pass a former Air Force fuel storage site without realizing it while driving on Kamehameha Highway from the H-1 towards the North Shore.

After the main part of Mililani, the road drops down before approaching Wheeler Army Airfield.

At the dip, Waikalani Drive meets Kamehameha Highway at a T-intersection. Waikalani Drive heads towards the Koolau Mountains almost to the H-1 where a largely hidden residential community lies.

But back at the T-intersection, across from Waikalani Drive is a gate and a No Trespassing Sign. The private military road heads towards the Waianae Mountains and leads to what was the Waikakalaua Fuel Storage Annex (FSA).

This site was one of two Air Force Fuel Storage Annexes that in many ways is similar to the Navy's Red Hill Fuel Storage Annex.

The other Air Force site was the Kipapa Gulch Fuel Storage Annex, dug horizontally under what is now the H-1 side of the Waipio community.

The Kipapa Gulch Fuel Storage Annex consisted on four massive underground tanks. Each tank is three times the length of a football field. Each tank could hold 2,400,000 gallons of fuel.

The 20-mile Hickam Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants pipeline connected the Wakakalaua Fuel Storage Annex and the Kipapa Gulch Fuel Storage Annex with Hickam Air Force Base.

The tanks and pipeline system was built during WW2 to provide fuel security in the event of a Japanese attack.

Plans were put into place in the 1990s to deactivate the system, to remove all of the fuel and to clean up contamination left behind. The clean-up lasted until the early years of the 21st century.

Over a period of fifty years some eighteen billion gallons of gasoline, aviation fuel, and later, JP-4 and JP-8 jet fuel were sent up into the complex. Over the years fourteen billion gallons were consumed.

Simple math reveals that if 18 billion gallons went up and 14 billion gallons came down and the system is now empty, that 4 billion gallons are unaccounted for.

At the time of the cleanup, the Air Force officials conceded that there were probably multiple reasons for the unaccounted for fuel.

It might have been because of poor accounting, air evaporation or ground-based leaks.

The clean-up was monitored by the community.

Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) were established by the military and Congress as civilian military interfaces monitoring military clean-up efforts. I served as the civilian co-chair of the Hickam RAB from 1996-2005.

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply was and is actively engaged in water monitoring.

The other State entity attending the meetings was the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office.

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Anonymous [March 9, 2014 at 10:30 AM](#)

Probably something similar to the following, selling it at below market cost to the private sector on the side (hint: geoengineering) ...

NASA sells jet fuel at below market cost to private sector <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/NASA-Admits-to-Selling-Discount-Fuel-to-Google-Execs-248922181.html> ... via [@nbcbayarea](#) [#geoengineering](#)

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Moon Medicine [March 9, 2014 at 2:47 PM](#)

The cost of 4 Billion gals of fuel runs into some serious money...Could that not have been used for Food Stamps?

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